

MEETING SUMMARY
RURAL & FRONTIER HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS WORKGROUP MEETING
Thursday, May 20, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. MST
Virtual Meeting



Participants

Members: Abner King, Brad Turpen, Christina Thomas, Darin Dransfield, Hilary Klarc, Janet Reis, Larry Tisdale, Lenne Bonner, Linda Rowe, Michael Blauer, Mike Fenello, Patt Richesin, Paul Smart

Staff: Stephanie Sayegh, Mary Sheridan, Ann Watkins, Matt Walker

Facilitators: Elizabeth Spaulding, Anna Wiley

Welcome & Introductions

Elizabeth Spaulding, facilitator, began the meeting with an overview of meeting goals, virtual meeting procedures, and the meeting agenda. Lenne Bonner motioned to approve the March 2020 meeting minutes; Brad Turpen seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

Additionally, Patt Richesin gave her insight into how the current COVID-19 situation might provide additional and different opportunities to consider within the value-based healthcare model, such as the increase in telemedicine. Patt asked task force members to consider in what ways their situation as a rural healthcare provider has evolved through COVID-19, both better and worse.

Update on Action Items

Most actions items identified during the February meeting are still outstanding due to time constraints associated with COVID-19. Patt Richesin provided an update on the data collection efforts her team is working on. They are considering which data points are most relevant, how COVID-19 might change data points, and from which sources data should be collected. The group agreed that data should be obtained from commercial payers, Medicare, and Medicaid. Patt will work closely with Lenne and her team to collect the appropriate data needed to make well-informed decisions in the future and will share those findings with the workgroup.

Abner sent the example hospital assessment results to Mary Sheridan, which will be disseminated to the workgroup.

Workgroup Capacity & Future Meetings

Elizabeth asked workgroup members what their current and future capacity to attend workgroup meetings would be moving forward. Generally speaking, workgroup members are still busy with COVID-19 considerations but are eager to continue meeting. For the time being, the workgroup decided that meeting virtually until social distancing measures are updated is preferred.

In regard to future meeting timelines, the workgroup will convene virtually in June for a brief meeting to assess updated goals and determine next steps and again in July for a more in-depth workgroup meeting. Patt again encouraged task force members to consider and communicate if their long-term sustainability has changed, and what factors have specifically helped or hurt this. For example, relaxation of regulations around telemedicine during the public health crisis has been helpful but impacts to ability to perform services has been detrimental.

Patt and Mary Sheridan will also reach out to contacts at CMMI to gain a better understanding of timelines for future funding applications.

Identify Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items:

- Assessment Tool
 - “Why” statement for Assessment Tool – Larry
- Idaho Model
 - Develop vision statement
 - New sections: Data, governance, and education
 - Logic model – Dr. Craig Jones
- Data
 - Determine data points – Patt and team
 - National level operating margins data – Larry
 - Blue Cross data – Lenne
 - Data from payers – Hilary
- Think about how COVID-19 has affected rural & frontier healthcare positively and how to capitalize on the changing healthcare landscape.

